



Navajo Nation Council – Office of the Speaker

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Navajo Councilman Butler commends Bik'eh Hozho Community Development Corporation, Main Street Project

Development corporation leading massive revitalization project in Tuba City

TUBA CITY, Ariz. — Residents and visitors to Tuba City may soon enjoy major improvements directed to boost economic development and tourism through the Main Street Project, thanks to efforts and partnerships established by the Bik'eh Hozho Community Development Corporation, who are leading the massive revitalization project.

The development corporation, in partnership with Navajo Nation Councilman Joshua Lavar Butler (To'Nanees'Dizi – Tuba City) and other local leaders, participated in a design charrette of the project in December 2010.

A master plan has been completed based on plans envisioned by community members and local leaders, which includes plans for new housing units, a visitor's center, restaurants, artist studios and galleries, retail space, professional offices, and museums.

In addition, infrastructure improvements are being planned as well to accommodate a community recreation center and an outdoor plaza that will include vendor space to accommodate a weekly flea market.

North Main Street in Tuba City has always been central to the 'hustle and bustle' of community activity, as well as serving as the main artery to medical services, government offices and schools. Once covered in large cottonwood trees, elders and residents relaxed outside the local trading post. Today, historic 100-year-old buildings sit vacant and dilapidated, trees are gone and development sits idle because land is tied in layers of bureaucracy.

Currently, the land transfer from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to the local community is hindering progress. The BIA controls the majority of land within the planned area of development on north Main Street, which has limited development to federal government operations only. The development corporation is working with Councilman Butler, local officials and the BIA to resolve the issue, so development can proceed.

“This massive revitalization project will create many opportunities for new businesses, jobs will be created, sustainability will be established, housing will be provided and community pride of Main Street will be restored,” Councilman Butler said. “It’s definitely an exciting effort initiated by Bike’ Hozho and our own community members. It’s exciting and I can’t wait to see it!”

“Tuba City and its residents need to harness this project and support it 110%,” Councilman Butler continued. “Anything can be accomplished, if we set our minds to it. We have many professionals, visionaries, advocates and technical people right here in Tuba City – we can accomplish anything.”

The project continues to move forward, they recently received funding to do community planning in economic development creating a master plan that includes 2D color artist renderings and a 3D video of the plans.

Plans can be viewed during the 43rd Annual To’Nanees’Dizi Diné Fair on Oct. 13-16 in Tuba City or by visiting the office located at the Dook'o'osliid Business Center. For more information, contact Jessica Stago, project manager at Bik’e Hozho Community Development Corporation, at 928-283-6351 or by email at jstago@hotmail.com.

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Bik’eh Hozho Community Development Corporation is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization that provides services to business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs. Services include start-up and expansion small business loans, technical assistance and educational courses in business management. The corporation manages a revolving loan fund and provides financial literacy and entrepreneurship classes several times a year in various communities on the Navajo Nation.